

*Inquiries of the Ministry***HOUSING****INQUIRY AS TO INVITATIONS AND AGENDA FOR CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** My question is directed to the Minister of Labour, who is in charge of housing. Has the government finalized the agenda of the forthcoming federal-provincial housing conference, and if so, would the minister make it public?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I hope that at the conclusion of orders of the day we will revert to motions. If so I will then table the proposed agenda as well as the background working papers of the conference.

**Mr. Gilbert:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the government to permit members of the House of Commons to attend the conference either as observers or as delegates?

**Mr. Nicholson:** I can only repeat the words of the Prime Minister the other day, when he said that this is a federal-provincial conference and the attendance of members of parliament or others as observers would depend upon the joint wishes of both levels of government. In the letter that is being written today by the Acting Prime Minister to the provincial premiers the suggestion is being made that at least the opening sessions of the conference, and perhaps some other meetings, might be open to members of this house.

**AGRICULTURE****EFFECT OF CURRENCY DEVALUATION ON EXPORTS TO U.K.**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent (Ont.)):** Mr. Speaker, if I may I should like to pose a question to the Minister of Agriculture. It is based on an undertaking made by the Prime Minister yesterday to assess and report to the house on the effect of the devaluation of the pound on imports to the United Kingdom of Canadian agricultural products. Will the minister endeavour to canvass the opinion of the British purchasers, especially those of tobacco, cheese and apples, as well as obtain the evaluation of our own Department of Agriculture?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture):** As I indicated yesterday to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), my department is [Mr. Drury.]

taking every possible step to garner all the information available at both ends with respect to the likely effect of the devaluation of the pound, but this is a very dynamic situation. What will happen to the value of the pound in the United Kingdom is certainly not clear at the present time, and therefore all we can do is to try to keep the situation in hand, to collect all the necessary information available and to pass it on to producers, processors and exporters, and this we intend to do.

**Mr. Danforth:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether it is his intention also to make a statement on motions dealing in some detail with the estimated effect on the shipment to the British market of such important commodities as I have outlined.

**Mr. Greene:** I had not intended to do so because I do not know of what benefit it would be, as I am sure everyone concerned in the industry is watching the situation. I do not think any advice from me would necessarily be more effective than that which the exporters themselves would have. But I will be glad to consider the suggestion of the hon. member, and if sufficient information which might not be readily available to the public is made available to me, so that a statement from me might be of use to producers, processors or exporters, then I will certainly consider making such a statement.

**WOMEN****INQUIRY CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT TO ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that one of the members of the royal commission on the status of women has tendered his resignation, is it the intention of the government to appoint a member to replace him?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry):** Mr. Speaker, this particular question is still under consideration.

**AGRICULTURE****SUGAR BEETS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SUBSIDY**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a